

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041892
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;MLEVITSKY:REH
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S/S;O:SRPVALERGA
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-----056549 170115Z /64

O 170020Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041892

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CASC, UR, US

SUBJECT: JEWISH TALMUD COMMENTARIES

REF: A. STATE 26617, B. MOSCOW 1721

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT COMMENTARIES CITED
IN REFTELS DATE FROM 1963, HAVE NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED, ARE
THE LIFEWORKE OF RABBI KRASILSHCHIKOV, ARE STRICTLY RELI-
GIOUS AND HAVE NO POLITICAL CONTENT. WE BELIEVE WORKS
COULD BE EXPORTED LEGALLY, BUT FAMILY APPARENTLY FEARS THAT
SINCE THEY ARE WRITTEN IN HEBREW AND SOVIET ASSESSMENT
WOULD TAKE LONG PERIOD OF TIME, THEIR EXIT MIGHT BE DELAYED.
IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH AMCIT RABBI JACOB POLLOCK,
FAMILY HAS ASKED THAT HE ACCEPT COMMENTARIES SO THAT THEY
MAY BE STUDIED BY TALMUDIC SCHOLARS.

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2. AFTER EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH CONGRESSMAN CLARENCE
LONG AND HIS STAFF, DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT COM-
MENTARIES FOR TRANSMISSION AS A GIFT TO THE LIBRARY OF CON-
GRESS. EARLIER REPORT THAT COMMENTARIES WOULD BE DELIVERED
TO EMBASSY MOSCOW WAS INCORRECT RPT INCORRECT. COMMENTARIES

ARE IN LENINGRAD AND RABBI POLLOCK WISHES TO TURN THEM OVER TO CONSULATE GENERAL LENINGRAD. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH WE AGREED TO ACCEPT VOLUMES IN LENINGRAD WERE:

--CONGEN WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN DELIVERY OF VOLUMES. IT IS UP TO RABBI POLLOCK TO BRING THEM TO CONGEN.

--NO OTHER MATERIAL FOR TRANSMISSION WILL BE ACCEPTED NOW OR LATER.

--VOLUMES WILL BE POUCHED DIRECTLY TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSMISSION TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

--THERE WILL BE NO PUBLICITY ABOUT THIS MATTER.

3. CONGRESSMAN LONG'S OFFICE INFORMS US THAT RABBI POLLOCK AND HIS WIFE WILL LEAVE FOR LENINGRAD THIS WEEKEND AND PLAN TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CONGEN MORNING OF FEB 20. THEY HAVE RUECKERT'S AND CLYATT'S NAMES. CONGEN AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE COMMENTARIES FROM POLLOCK (EACH IS NINE INCHES BY ELEVEN INCHES AND THREE QUARTERS INCH THICK) AND POUCH THEM TO DEPARTMENT, EUR/SOV. PLEASE ADVISE WHEN COMMENTARIES RECEIVED.

4. AMBASSADOR TOON CONCURS; VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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